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INFO RUCNCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0434
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S E C R E T OTTAWA 001303

SIPDIS

STATE FOR ISN/MDSP AND OES/SAT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/06/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [ETTC](#) [CA](#)
SUBJECT: (S) CANADA CONSIDERING SPACE LAUNCH ALTERNATIVES
DUE TO RUSSIA'S INVASION OF GEORGIA

Classified By: Pol/Mil Officer Brett Mattei, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request -- see para 4.

[1](#)2. (S/RelCan) Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Senior Advisor for Non-Proliferation Phillip Baines raised U.S.-India safeguards on October 3, asking whether the United States intends to broaden its bilateral safeguards to permit satellite launches from India. Baines noted that he was aware of a safeguards agreement "along these lines" among the U.S., Russia and Kazakhstan. Further, he explained, Department of National Defence (DND) Project SAPPHIRE program managers had planned to launch their system into orbit via Russian spacecraft in late 2009 or early 2010, but due to the Russian invasion of Georgia Canada now is interested in looking elsewhere for launch services.

[1](#)3. (SBU) According to open source literature, when it is deployed, Project SAPPHIRE will use a single satellite-borne electro-optical sensor to provide information on the whereabouts of satellites and orbiting space debris in medium-to-high earth orbits.

[1](#)4. (U) Embassy requests Department officials prepare to engage Baines on issue raised in para 2 when he calls on ISN/MDSP and OES/SAT on October 10.

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